

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hermetic compressor comprising:

a casing including a high pressure chamber, an intake pipe and a discharge pipe, the intake pipe supplying a refrigerant to the casing from an outlet of an evaporator, and the high pressure chamber communicating with the discharge pipe to supply high pressure refrigerant to a condenser;

a compression mechanism accommodated within the casing for sucking the ~~the~~ refrigerant from the intake pipe, compressing the refrigerant, and discharging the refrigerant into the high pressure chamber, which ~~communicates with the discharge pipe, and which~~ contains lubricant oil at a bottom of the high pressure chamber that is supplied to the compression mechanism ~~chamber~~,

a container member communicating with a bottom part of the high pressure chamber so as to allow the lubricant oil to flow to and from the container member; and

a pressure reduction device which sucks ~~the~~ gas refrigerant in the container member and sends out the thus sucked gas refrigerant to the intake pipe for reducing an inside pressure of the container member, the pressure reduction device being in fluid communication with the intake pipe at a location between the outlet of the evaporator and an inlet of compression mechanism.

2. (Previously Presented) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, wherein the pressure reduction device is configured to suck the gas refrigerant in the container member intermittently.

3. (Withdrawn) The hermetic compressor of Claim 2, wherein the pressure reduction device includes a gas container and a switching mechanism which switches connection between a condition that the gas container communicates only with the intake pipe and a condition that the gas container communicates only with the container member, and

the pressure reduction device is further configured to operate the switching mechanism to conduct an operation for communicating the gas container with the intake pipe for pressure reduction alternately with an operation for communicating the gas container with the container member.

4. (Currently Amended) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~, wherein the pressure reduction device includes a communication pipe connected to an upper end of the container member and the intake pipe at the location between the outlet of the evaporator and an inlet of compression mechanism, and a ~~and having the~~ gas container disposed in the communication pipe between the upper end of the container member and the intake pipe, and

the switching mechanism includes opening/closing valves arranged respectively on sides of the gas container in the communication pipe.

5. (Withdrawn) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, wherein the pressure reduction device includes a communication pipe connected to an upper end of the container member and the intake pipe and an adjuster valve arranged in the communication pipe and capable of changing a degree of opening thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, further comprising an oil supply pump configured to suck the lubricant oil retained at the bottom of the high pressure chamber and supply the gas refrigerant to the compression mechanism, the container member communicating with the high pressure chamber at a part lower than a level at which the oil supply pump sucks the lubricant oil.

7. (Withdrawn) The hermetic compressor of Claim 1, further comprising an electric heater is provided for heating liquid in the container member.

8. (Withdrawn) A hermetic compressor comprising:
a casing including a high pressure chamber, an intake pipe and a discharge pipe, the intake pipe supplying a refrigerant to the casing from an outlet of an evaporator, and the high

pressure chamber communicating with the discharge pipe to supply high pressure refrigerant to a condenser; [[:]]

a compression mechanism accommodated within the casing for sucking the [[a]] refrigerant from the intake pipe, ~~and~~ compressing the refrigerant, and discharging the refrigerant into the high pressure chamber, which ~~communicates with the discharge pipe, and which~~ contains lubricant oil at a bottom of the high pressure chamber that is supplied to the compression mechanism ~~chamber~~; and

a pressure reduction device configured to suck [[a]] gas refrigerant in the high pressure chamber and send the gas refrigerant to the intake pipe for temporally reducing an inside pressure of the high pressure chamber, the pressure reduction device being in fluid communication with the intake pipe at a location between the outlet of the evaporator and an inlet of compression mechanism.

9. (Withdrawn) The hermetic compressor of Claim 8, wherein the pressure reduction device includes a gas container and a switching mechanism which switches connection between a condition that the gas container communicates only with the intake pipe and a condition that the gas container communicates only with the high pressure chamber, and

the pressure reduction device is further configured to operate the switching mechanism to conduct an operation for communicating the gas container with the intake pipe for pressure reduction alternately with an operation for communicating the gas container with the high pressure chamber to suck the gas refrigerant in the high pressure chamber intermittently.

10. (New) A refrigerator comprising:
a condenser;
an expansion valve that receives refrigerant from the condenser;
an evaporator that receives refrigerant from the expansion valve; and
a hermetic compressor disposed between the condenser and the evaporator, the hermetic compressor including

a casing including a high pressure chamber, an intake pipe and a discharge pipe,
the intake pipe supplying refrigerant to the casing from an outlet of the

evaporator, and the high pressure chamber communicating with the discharge pipe to supply high pressure refrigerant to the condenser,
a compression mechanism accommodated within the casing for sucking the refrigerant from the intake pipe, compressing the refrigerant, and discharging the refrigerant into the high pressure chamber, which contains lubricant oil at a bottom of the high pressure chamber that is supplied to the compression mechanism,
a container member communicating with a bottom part of the high pressure chamber so as to allow the lubricant oil to flow to and from the container member, and
a pressure reduction device which sucks gas refrigerant in the container member and sends out the thus sucked gas refrigerant to the intake pipe for reducing an inside pressure of the container member, the pressure reduction device being in fluid communication with the intake pipe at a location between the outlet of the evaporator and an inlet of compression mechanism.

11. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 10, wherein
the pressure reduction device is configured to suck the gas refrigerant in the container member intermittently.

12. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 11, wherein
the pressure reduction device includes a gas container and a switching mechanism which switches connection between a condition that the gas container communicates only with the intake pipe and a condition that the gas container communicates only with the container member, and

the pressure reduction device is further configured to operate the switching mechanism to conduct an operation for communicating the gas container with the intake pipe for pressure reduction alternately with an operation for communicating the gas container with the container member.

13. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 10, wherein

the pressure reduction device includes a communication pipe connected to an upper end of the container member and the intake pipe at the location between the outlet of the evaporator and an inlet of compression mechanism, and a ~~and having the~~ gas container disposed in the communication pipe between the upper end of the container member and the intake pipe, and

the switching mechanism includes opening/closing valves arranged respectively on sides of the gas container in the communication pipe.

14. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 10, wherein
the pressure reduction device includes a communication pipe connected to an upper end of the container member and the intake pipe and an adjuster valve arranged in the communication pipe and capable of changing a degree of opening thereof.

15. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 10, further comprising
an oil supply pump configured to suck the lubricant oil retained at the bottom of the high pressure chamber and supply the gas refrigerant to the compression mechanism,
the container member communicating with the high pressure chamber at a part lower than a level at which the oil supply pump sucks the lubricant oil.

16. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 10, further comprising
an electric heater is provided for heating liquid in the container member.

17. (New) A refrigerator comprising:
a condenser;
an expansion valve that receives refrigerant from the condenser;
an evaporator that receives refrigerant from the expansion valve; and
a hermetic compressor disposed between the condenser and the evaporator, the hermetic compressor including
a casing including a high pressure chamber, an intake pipe and a discharge pipe,
the intake pipe supplying refrigerant to the casing from an outlet of the evaporator, and the high pressure chamber communicating with the discharge pipe to supply high pressure refrigerant to the condenser,

a compression mechanism accommodated within the casing for sucking the refrigerant from the intake pipe, compressing the refrigerant, and discharging the refrigerant into the high pressure chamber, which contains lubricant oil at a bottom of the high pressure chamber that is supplied to the compression mechanism, and

a pressure reduction device configured to suck gas refrigerant in the high pressure chamber and send the gas refrigerant to the intake pipe for temporally reducing an inside pressure of the high pressure chamber, the pressure reduction device being in fluid communication with the intake pipe at a location between the outlet of the evaporator and an inlet of compression mechanism.

18. (New) The refrigerator of Claim 17, wherein

the pressure reduction device includes a gas container and a switching mechanism which switches connection between a condition that the gas container communicates only with the intake pipe and a condition that the gas container communicates only with the high pressure chamber, and

the pressure reduction device is further configured to operate the switching mechanism to conduct an operation for communicating the gas container with the intake pipe for pressure reduction alternately with an operation for communicating the gas container with the high pressure chamber to suck the gas refrigerant in the high pressure chamber intermittently.